

HB 1495-S - DIGEST

(DIGEST OF PROPOSED 1ST SUBSTITUTE)

Finds there is a need to establish collaborative government-to-government relationships between elected school boards and tribal councils to create local and/or regional curricula about tribal history and culture, and to promote dialogue and cultural exchanges that can help tribal leaders and school leaders implement strategies to close the achievement gap.

Provides that, beginning in 2006, and at least once annually through 2010, the Washington state school directors' association is encouraged to schedule regional meetings and invite the respective tribal councils from the region for the purpose of establishing government-to-government relationships and dialogue between tribal councils and school district boards of directors. Such meetings should be for the primary purposes of: (1) Facilitating the development and implementation of local and/or regional curricular materials to teach the information regarding the history, culture, and government of Washington's Indian tribes; and

(2) Promoting collaboration in strategies to close the achievement gap.

Requires that, by December 1, 2007, and every two years thereafter through 2011, the school directors' association shall report to the education committees of the legislature regarding the progress made in the development and implementation of tribal history, culture, and government curricular materials, including any obstacles encountered, and the potential for the curricula to contribute to efforts to close the achievement gap. The report also is encouraged to include feedback from students, teachers, and parents.